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# BUDGET WEEK

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
Majority Caucus

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Volume 2, No. 5

Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation  
scheduled for the House floor

25 February 2002

Week of 25 February 2002


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## SUSPENSION CALENDAR

### 1) *Family Sponsor Immigration Act of 2001* (H.R.1892).

Under current law, when an alien petitions for admission into the United States, the petitioner must have a family sponsor. Should the sponsor die before the admission process is complete, the petitioner must begin again with a new sponsor. This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit an alternative eligible member of the alien's family to replace the deceased original sponsor so that the process may continue uninterrupted. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimates that the bill could have a negligible effect on direct spending and revenue, through fees collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service or the Department of State. The bill does not otherwise increase direct spending or cause a reduction in revenue below the levels provided for in the budget resolution currently in force.

## LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

**Bill:** *Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act of 2001* (H.R. 1542).   
**Committee:** Energy and Commerce  
**Summary:** This bill would prohibit the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] and State governments from regulating the provision of Internet access or high-speed data services, with certain exceptions. H.R. 1542 also would allow the FCC to impose penalties for violations of certain provisions of the bill, including requirements that certain telecommunications carriers give consumers the freedom to choose their Internet service providers. Under the bill, the FCC also could assess penalties against Bell telephone companies that offer voice telecommunication services using telephone lines for data transmission without the agency's permission.  
**Budget Act:** Based on information from the FCC, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1542 would cost \$1 million in 2002, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts. CBO assumes that the additional costs of implementing H.R. 1542 would be offset by an increase in collections credited to the FCC's annual appropriations. Because these funds are subject to appropriation, the implementation costs do not constitute increased direct spending and hence do not violate provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to express support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. *Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.*

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the House Committee on the Budget. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

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This legislation may affect the Universal Service Fund. This fund provides resources to increase access to telecommunications services throughout the Nation. A tax is charged against telecommunications services, and the fund distributes those amounts to high-cost areas, low-income consumers, schools and libraries, and others to lower the costs of telephone and Internet service. Because H.R. 1542 could affect the telecommunications market, the FCC may decide to change the amount collected. The effect on revenue and direct spending is expected to be negligible.